

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a flat wiper blade assembly, comprising:

providing a wiper element;

extruding a metallic frame having a generally closed upper channel and a bottom channel with a slot traversing through a wall spanning the length of the bottom channel to receive the wiper element;

slidably inserting the wiper element into the bottom channel of the frame so that the wiper element depends from the bottom channel and through the slot to make wiping contact with a surface to be wiped; and

staking a wall of the bottom channel to fix the wiper element within the bottom channel of the frame, said staking step including locally mechanically deforming a protuberance extending laterally inwardly into gripping engagement with the wiper element to secure the wiper element against longitudinal movement relative to the bottom channel.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of manufacturing a flat wiper blade assembly of claim 21 wherein the wiper element is provided with a crown portion and a neck portion depending from the crown portion wherein the crown portion is received within the bottom channel and the neck portion depends through the slot so that the wiper element can make wiping contact with a surface to be wiped.

23. **(Original)** The method of manufacturing a flat wiper blade assembly of claim 21 wherein the bottom channel is formed having a pair of lips extending generally toward one another adjacent the neck portion of the wiper element in underlying relation to the crown portion.

24. **(Currently Amended)** A method of manufacturing a flat wiper blade assembly, comprising:

forming a wiper element;

extruding a metallic frame having a generally closed upper channel and an open bottom channel with a slot transversing a wall spanning the length of the bottom channel to receive the wiper element;

slidably inserting the wiper element into the bottom channel of the frame so that the wiper element depends from the bottom channel and through the slot to make wiping contact with a surface to be wiped; ~~[[and]]~~

installing a pair of end plugs into an opening at each end of the upper channel and across at least a portion of the bottom channel to releasably maintain the wiper element within the bottom channel;

providing a hose and a nozzle;

forming an opening in a sidewall of the upper channel;

connecting the hose to the upper channel so as to be operative to provide for fluid communication between the upper channel and a source of wiper fluid under pressure provided through the hose; and

inserting the nozzle into the opening in the upper channel so that wiper fluid can be dispensed through the nozzle and onto a surface to be wiped.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The method of manufacturing a flat wiper blade assembly of claim 24, further comprising:

- providing a grommet having a through hole;
- forming an aperture in at least one sidewall of the upper channel;
- inserting the grommet into the aperture so that the grommet is maintained within the aperture and provides for a fluid tight seal between a mounting pin passing through the hole in the grommet and the aperture.

26. **(Cancelled)**

27. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a flat wiper blade assembly, comprising:

extruding a rigid metallic frame extending longitudinally between opposite ends with an open bottom channel having a pair of laterally spaced side walls and a bottom wall formed with a longitudinally extending slot, and an upper channel having a partition wall separating said upper channel from said bottom channel, and a pair of laterally spaced side walls of said upper channel extending upwardly from said partition wall, and a top wall extending between said side walls and spaced from said partition wall to enclose said upper channel,

and mechanically deforming a protuberance extending laterally from a side wall of said bottom channel,

disposing a resilient wiper element extending longitudinally and having a crown, a neck and a body in said bottom channel with said neck extending through said slot and said body extending below said frame with said protuberance extending laterally inwardly into gripping engagement with said wiper element to secure said wiper element against longitudinal movement relative to said bottom channel.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a flat wiper blade assembly, comprising:

extruding a rigid metallic frame extending longitudinally between opposite ends with an open bottom channel having a pair of laterally spaced side walls and a bottom wall formed with a longitudinally extending slot, and an upper channel having a partition wall separating said upper channel from said lower channel, and a pair of laterally spaced side walls of said upper channel extending upwardly from said partition wall, and a top wall extending between said side walls and spaced from said partition wall to enclose said upper channel; and

forming a fluid inlet opening in said upper channel for receiving wiper fluid within said upper channel,

forming a fluid outlet opening for discharging wiper fluid from said upper channel, and

disposing a fluid nozzle communicating with said fluid outlet opening.

29. **(Previously Presented)** A method of manufacturing a flat wiper blade assembly, comprising:

extruding a rigid metallic frame extending longitudinally between opposite ends with an open bottom channel having a pair of laterally spaced side walls and a bottom wall formed with a longitudinally extending slot, and an upper channel having a partition wall separating said upper channel from said lower channel, and a pair of laterally spaced side walls of said upper channel extending upwardly from said partition wall, and a top wall extending between said side walls and spaced from said partition wall to enclose said upper channel; and

forming a mounting aperture in said side walls of said upper channel for receiving a mounting pin.